



AN EVENING WAIST FOR A WIDOW WHO IS JUST EMERGING FROM MOURNING.

Violet silk embroidered in black. Black velvet band trimming.

## The Evening Girl And Her Drop Skirt.

ILLUSTRATED BY R. F. PHILLIPSE.

NEW YORK, July 15.—The evening girl of the summer wears a drop skirt. This sounds a little startling to the uninitiated, but those who are up on the fashions understand that the "drop" skirt is a very handsome skirt lining which is made free from the dress. It hangs plain all around and is of walking length. It is made of as nice a piece of material as the summer girl can afford.

In handsome summer trousseaus every dress has a drop skirt. It may be a cloth dress, or a silk one, or even a velvet one, but underneath there will be a handsome drop skirt.

The philosophy of the drop skirt, when invented, was that when thin materials were worn, the underskirt showed through and therefore a nice lining was necessary. Finally this nice lining came to be called a drop skirt. It was so pretty and so feminine in every respect that it gained great vogue and, now, wherever you see a pretty dress, you may look for the drop skirt.

**LIFTING THE SKIRT.**  
And this has given rise to a new fashion—that of lifting dress with both hands. Scarcely any of the summer woman but grasps each side of the skirt with her hands as she walks. This raises the dress material and shows the drop skirt, exposing a beautiful lining.

The effect of these linings is that of an irregular band of bright trimming around her dress, so gaily does the drop skirt show forth beneath.  
It looks odd at a boy or on evening occasions to see a woman holding up her handsome thin dress showing the drop skirt below, yet such is the style. I saw one in a Bar Harbor ball room. It was made of a pretty blue voile over a saffron colored tulle silk lining. Voile, by the way, is a new material which is, if I may invent the term, a medley of chiffon and liberty silk. While thicker than chiffon it is not quite as closely woven as liberty silk and is warranted to hold its lightness and softness under constant wear, longer than any other of the spidery materials now so much in vogue.

**AN EMBROIDERED SKIRT.**  
The skirt of this ball room gown had two rows of delicate green leaves embroidered in it at intervals of about four inches. On either side of the embroidered leaves were rows of thickly gathered ribbon which had a dainty fringe woven on both edges. The drop skirt was faced with crinoline almost half way the skirt which made the dainty fringed ribbon from side to side as the wearer walked.

The waist was made fitting in the back and the front was made into two double box plaits which bloused slightly over the belt line. The neck was only moderately décolleté and was finished with the same ribbon used in the skirt decoration. Below the ribbon were three lappets. These lappets were cut on the bias and trimmed with plain satin ribbon. The lappets were gathered from the side to the center, so that they had the appearance of frills. They widened out over the shoulders and almost completely covered the small puff. The long gloves were of saffron kid stitched with a beautiful shade of blue. Two large, yellow artificial chrysanthemums were pinned on the right side of the waist and around the throat a gold chain with little chains hanging from it.

The wearer stood against a decorated screen for a moment looking across the room. Back of her were bright chrysanthemums upon their paper settings. Her eyes were across the room and there was no one near her, but in each hand she held a fold of her light delicate skirt, so lifting it that her drop skirt was revealed.

**MANY DROP SKIRTS.**  
It is a simple matter to arrange the summer trousseau so that every dress shall have its drop skirt, without terrible expenditure. The nicest dresses are made with two skirts, plaited or gathered upon the same band so that they hang as one, and are to be put on together. But where economy is desired—and during this summer nearly everybody is desirous of economy—the drop skirt may be put on separately and the dress skirt put on over it. The result is just as good, although a multi-

licity of hands around a woman's waist has a tendency to make her a little stout, but, slender women need not take this into account.

A word must be said for the little neck trimmings which women wear this summer. They are absolutely primitive in their simplicity. Bands of plain black velvet fastened with an old square gold clasp, gold chains with little chains hanging from them, strings of beads and even bands of ribbon are worn around the neck. Trimmings destroy the contour of the throat and flatten the beautiful long line between a woman's ear and her shoulders, but it must be confessed that these little neck ornaments are very becoming. They seem to soften the face and set it off, as a frame softens, sets off and brings out a picture.

**ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.**  
There is the greatest fancy for artificial flowers for afternoon and evening. These come in silk highly colored, and are as beautiful as the most perfect originals. They are, by the extreme of the flower maker's art, shaped and shaded until you cannot tell them from the natural article. In many respects they are superior for they do not wilt. Natural flowers, on the other hand, fade soon; roses have their thorns, which tear the hands and dress. Natural flowers are moist and decay and it spoils the dress to pin them on. But the silk flowers are big and soft and beautiful and they have a scent deliciously natural. American beauties, in their green leaves, are pinned on the corsage, so also are other summer flowers, even to the geranium—that flower of the people. The most brilliant red geraniums set off in their bunchy green leaves are made up into bunches of leaf precisely as though they grew in the kitchen garden, and are worn on white dresses, making a contrast as rural as one would please.

**BALL ROOM GLOVES.**  
Gloves in the ball room are very comfortable. Any woman who dances the whole evening with gloves on will tell you that she much prefers them to the bare hands. Gloves have a certain absorbent property which is very comfortable when dancing. They keep the hands delicate and tender and protect them from rubbing upon the rough sleeves of the men's coats. Besides these little personal points, gloves are a matter of etiquette.

There come this year very nice shoulder gloves that reach just above the elbows. These protect the arm and give it a clothed look which is more becoming than the bare arm. With very short sleeves the shoulder gloves are highly desirable, and without them no woman can hope to be a belle in the ball room.

By the same token a man should wear gloves in the summer ball room and he who does not do so lays himself open to criticism. To be sure he may carry a handkerchief in his hand to protect the ladies' dresses, but gloves are more in taste.

The materials for summer evening dresses are very numerous. In fact you cannot enter a store without being shown a number of new ones, but all will be found to have the same quality, namely, that of transparency. The gauze goods continue to lead the evening styles. Any thin goods, no matter how cheap it may be, can be made up into a beautiful afternoon dress, or a dress for dinner or one for nice evening occasions.

A five-cent mull can be trimmed with frilled bands of baby ribbon, each frill edged with narrow lace and with a belt and neck strip of contrasting velvet. So decorated, it can pass muster along with the nicest and most expensive evening fabrics, provided that it be built upon a good lining. The popular linings are those that are in the new colors and of these you have a wide and bewildering variety.

### The Small Boy's Idol.

My daughter, who teaches in a mission Sunday school, tells me of a Dewey experience she had with a youngster making his first appearance. She had put him through a half-hour or more of

instruction in the rudimentary principles, for he was entirely lacking in information on that point, and to test him was reviewing her work with him.  
"Now," she said, "tell me again, who made the world and all that is in it?"  
"God did," replied the boy, with commendable promptitude.  
"God can do everything, can't he?" she asked again.  
"I don't believe he could lick Dewey," he answered at last, and the teacher sat silent between her religion and her patriotism. It wasn't her time to say anything, if she didn't want to lose that boy forever, and she had wit enough to let it go at that.—Washington Star.

**Cost of Operating Railroads.**  
The railroads of the United States expend in a year a sum more than \$100,000,000 in excess of the total expenditure of the United States government, and this computation does not include nearly \$20,000,000 paid in the form of interest upon railroad bonds of guaranteed stock and \$30,000,000 to \$100,000,000 paid in the form of dividends to stockholders. The railroads, indeed, are the great disburser of the country, handling never less than \$1,000,000,000 a year and disbursing it all, or practically all, for railroads as a rule do not keep large bank accounts, and do practically a cash business, turning money rapidly.

An estimate made by one of the scientific papers a short time ago gave the average annual expense of American railroads in maintaining the condition of their roadbeds \$75,000,000, besides \$25,000,000 for the purchase of rails, ties and sleepers, and \$15,000,000 for the construction of new bridges. The railroads of the country spent last year for fences, sign boards, signals and watch towers \$2,500,000 and for printing and advertising \$8,500,000. Very few persons have an accurate estimate of the extent to which railroad expenses are to be subdivided, supposing, probably, that the largest items of expenditure are for cars and engines, fuel, employees, and terminals. Such is the fact, but there are other large items, and one of the largest of these is the item of taxes. Railroad corporations in the United States are heavily taxed, and they pay collectively in a year, it has been estimated, \$40,000,000. There is then another item which figures largely in all railroad accounts, the item of legal expenses, railroads being drawn into almost constant litigation and requiring at all times the services of counsel. It is estimated that expenses of American railroads for professional legal services amount in a year to about \$10,000,000, and this is, of course, exclusive of the sums requisite to meet claims for personal injuries or damages to property. Some of the large railroad companies expend as much as \$250,000 in a year for the settlement of such cases or the payment of judgments recovered. This item of expense on all American railroads is ordinarily put at about \$5,000,000. A serious accident may entail on a railroad company damages so large as to offset many months of profit, and some railroads have been crippled for long periods by such cases.

There are in the United States 300,000 railroad employees, 100,000 station men, 25,000 engineers, 40,000 firemen and helpers, 25,000 conductors and dispatchers, 45,000 trainmen, 30,000 machinists, 100,000 shopmen other than machinists, 30,000 telegraph operators and their helpers, 45,000 switchmen, flagmen and watchmen, and 125,000 trackmen. The daily pay-roll on all American railroads combined, officers and clerical staff included, amounts to about \$2,000,000 a day.—New York Sun.

Artificial veneers are being made in Europe of three colored layers of material, with cores interposed between the layers, cemented together under hydraulic pressure, after which the block is sliced across the grain to bring out the figure.

## Some Brand New Things

The exhaust from steam engines is silenced by a new muffler, formed of a series of curved chambers of increasing capacity, separated by asbestos gauze partitions.

An Englishman has invented a new propeller for ships, in which reciprocating plungers work in inclined cylinders

and a chain to attach it to the wall, the box having a wire bottom, with a knob on the opposite side to press the soap against it.

In a recently-patented pair of shears the back of one blade has a short cutting edge, which works in conjunction with an auxiliary curved blade attached to the same handle by a pivot, to form a button-hole cutter.

Horsemen will appreciate a newly-patented buggy dashboard, which is attached to the front of the wagon by clamps, and can be extended either toward the front or rear to form a mud-guard or storm fender.

A new tea or coffee pot strainer, to be attached to the spot of the pot, has a

the material is frozen and surrounded by wet gun cotton, and is thawed by the heat of impact of the projectile or by a time or percussion fuse.

An improved device for indicating office hours, etc., has a shelf at the bottom of the indicator to support a writing pad on which a message may be written and the sheet of paper dropped through a slot into a receptacle below.

Nurses and sick people will appreciate a new medicine cabinet which is attached to one of the side rails and slides through an opening under the regular American clientele have withdrawn their patronage because of the unfounded rumor of France's antagonism to Americans.

Some of the smartest of Parisian yachting gowns are already on their way to England for the yachting season on the "Upper Thames" promises to be exceptionally brilliant this summer.

It is often argued that an English-made or an American-made outfit gown equals if not surpasses an outfit gown made in Paris. As far as the cutting, the pressing and the general tailor work is concerned, the Paris made gown is not superior. But the designers here are more mindful of details, and study always, combinations of color and becoming neck effects, which tell so effectively in their creations.

## HERE ARE NEW YACHTING GOWNS

The Season on the Thames will be Vivid in Sea Greens.

STYLES FOR THE NEW NECKTIES.

A Variety of Blouses Accompanies Each Yachting Dress—A Word About the Very Latest Boating Hats.

PARIS, July 7.—So few of the yachting gowns designed in Paris this season will be claimed by Americans.  
The couturiers insist, though, that it is due to the fact that the American yachts will be more near to shore while the Spaniards continue to prow around the waters of the western hemisphere. They scoff at the suggestion that their regular American clientele have withdrawn their patronage because of the unfounded rumor of France's antagonism to Americans.

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### IN SEA GREEN.

One of these delightful yachting gowns was made of grey blue cloth with a check in green so that the effect was rather of a shade of sea green. It was made up on the bias. The skirt had but little flare at the front and sides and fitted close over the hips. It was trimmed around in three rows of bars arranged in threes. The green braid of the center and the gray braid bordered both edges.

The corsage was a compromise between a jacket and a blouse. It was drawn back in small flat plaits to show a vest of blue taffeta and had short close-fitting basques. The revers were of green taffeta with a very effective finish in blue braid. A narrow belt of the same material on both sides of the waist with large silver buttons was also of green taffeta.

A yachting gown designed for a girl of seventeen was made of white serge. The skirt was made with two broad flat plaits on each side of the apron that were bordered with narrow gold braid and a row of gold buttons.

### THE NEW BLAZER.

The jacket was a sort of short blazer cut with yoke, back and front, that was outlined with gold braid and buttons. The cloth was patterned on to the yoke in two flat plaits at either side of the front. At the back there was a single broad plait with the edges finished with the braid and buttons. A band of gold braid at the bust line and the ends were carried down into the narrow red taffeta belt.

My attention was especially called to the pretty arrangement of the tie worn with this dress. The blouse worn under the jacket was of a very fine quality of cream silk made on the lines of the regulation up-to-date shirt waist with a linen collar. The scarf of bright tartan was carried around the front of the collar and crossing at the back was brought around again to the front of the blouse. It was drawn through a gold ring at the bust line and the ends were carried down into the narrow red taffeta belt.

Some of this season's pique boating gowns are unusually smart.

One of checked blue and white pique was exceedingly simple and pretty. The skirt fitted close over the hips and was gored so that the fullness commenced just a little above the knees. It was trimmed with rows of braid arranged in series of twos that formed points on the apron.

### FOR BOATING.

The corsage was a blouse gathered into a dark blue ribbon belt with two pointed tabs falling below the belt at the front. It was cut away at the front and turned back with broad revers of white pique that had more the effect of a sailor collar. On each revers was worked a large anchor in blue silk. The sleeves were very moderate in size and were finished at the hand with blue braid.

The blouses to be worn with this costume were all made of sheer white mull gathered in very full at the shoulders. The facing for the studs and the collar were of linen starched and glossed.

A very French yachting gown was made of blue canvas with a fine design in bright red. The skirt was rather moderate in width with a band of red and blue braid that was carried high over the left hip.

The jacket was a short affair that crossed over and fastened at the left side. It was trimmed around with two rows of the blue and red braid. The crisp scarlet taffeta blouse showed beneath the jacket and a bit of it was visible in the form of a V at the neck.

### BOATING HATS.

The Parisian boating hats are all trimmed and rather too elaborate to be recommended.

Shoes often worn with yachting gowns are made of the same material, of the same shade of leather as the gown. To same smart one must have spy glasses in a leather case to match the shade of one gown and the strap over the shoulder must match also.

The word "match" is the key-note of the summer's smartness. But it is not that match; in its small details then one that is much finer and which falls to harmonize in the minor points.  
And what are the minor points of a costume? The gloves principally; after the gloves come the skirt lining, and finally the fan. After the fan the veil and finally the small touches such as neckties, studs, and chapeaux, all of which can be made to harmonize perfectly.

NINA GOODWIN.

### A Peculiar Nation.

A Chinese writer in one of the publications of his own country has summed up the peculiarities of the American people in a paragraph five months without eating a mouthful of rice; they eat bullocks and sheep in enormous quantities; they have to bathe frequently; the men dress all alike, and to judge from their appearance, they are all coolies; neither pearls nor diamonds are to be seen carrying a fan or an umbrella, for they manifest their ignorant contempt of these insignia of a gentleman by leaving them entirely to women; none of them have finger nails; they eat meat with knives and prongs; they never enjoy themselves by sitting quietly on their ancestors' graves, but jump around and kick balls as if paid to do it, and they have no dignity, for they may be found walking with women.

Ernie Shannon's grandfather was a clergyman.

Richard Carroll and Frank Denker were seen in "Exmials" at Washington last week.



AN EVENING GOWN OF VOILE, THE NEW MATERIAL WHICH CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS A MEDLEY OF CHIFFON AND SILK.